

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 14, as follows:

The system depicted in Fig. 1 has an overlap of about 50%, that is 50% of each strip is overlapped by other strips. Although not shown, some type of retaining ~~means~~ device is necessary to prevent the strips from sliding off the studs when the strips are encountered by personnel or equipment passing through the opening. In U.S. patent application No. 10/406,527 entitled "Flexible-Strip Hanger for a Strip Door System and Method of Making Same", filed April 3, 2003, a hinged cover prevents the plastic strips from sliding off the studs.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 6, as follows:

The present invention is a hanger for use in a strip door system for supporting vertically hanging flexible plastic strips, wherein each strip has a row of uniformly spaced apertures along an upper end portion. The hanger has an elongated backing plate portion for attaching the hanger to a structure above an opening, a plurality of uniformly spaced studs fixed along the length of the backing plate, for supporting the plastic strips by engagement through the strip apertures, and an elongated retaining plate for locking with the studs to prevent the engaged strips from sliding off the studs. Each stud has a plurality of locking ~~means~~ grooves along its length for locking the retaining plate with the studs so as to provide an adjustable effective stud length between the backing plate and the retaining plate.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 3, as follows:

The first embodiment, shown in Figs. 2A and 2B, is for use in mounting on a wall above an opening which is to be provided with a strip door system. Shown is an elongated backing plate 9 of

the hanger having apertures 10 for attaching the hanger to a vertically oriented wall above an opening to which the strip door is to be installed. Protruding from a front face 11 of the backing plate are a plurality of uniformly spaced studs 12 for supporting the flexible plastic strips of the strip door system. Apertures provided along a top portion of each strip are slid over the uniformly spaced studs to install the strips on the hanger. The studs, which preferably have a cylindrical shape, feature annularly shaped grooves 13 spaced along the length of each stud. The grooves have a major diameter D, which corresponds to the surface of the stud, and a minor diameter d as measured at the base of a groove. To insure a tight attachment to the backing plate, the studs preferably extend through the backing plate 9 and have a head portion 14 which rests against back face 15 of the backing plate. Any known means method, such as a press fit, brazing, or the like, can be used to maintain a tight attachment of the studs to the backing plate. Preferably the backing plate includes bent portions, such as at 16 and 17 to give rigidity to the backing plate and to provide a spacing for the head portions 14 of the studs. The hanger can be of any length required to span the opening being addressed.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 19, as follows:

Figures 3A and 3B show an elongated retaining plate 18 of the hanger which prevents the installed flexible plastic strips from sliding off studs 12. Retaining plate 18 features apertures 19, having a minor portion 20, and a major portion 21 which communicate with each other. Apertures 19 have centerlines 22 which correspond in spacing with center lines 23 of the studs of backing plate 9. The apertures 19 of retaining plate 18 are configured such that the major portion of the aperture is slideable along the length of the studs, and the minor portion is slideable into one of the grooves 13,

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but not slideable along the length of the stud. Thus the grooves of the studs act as a locking means mechanism for the retaining plate 18.